

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 38 are pending. Inventor has resent the textual portion of the previous Amendment with the left column shifted to the right so that the numbering on the left will not interfere with the read-quality of the Amendment as per Examiner's request.

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Examiner has accepted the Amendment mailed on 9-24-04, however, states that Inventor has not fully responded to all of Examiner's requests. This Amendment is for the purpose of addressing and correcting all of Examiner's requests and objections. The date of mailing of Examiner's office action was on 12-22-04. For this reason, the due date is 1-22-05 which falls on a week-end, thus this due-date is carried over to Monday, 1-24-05. Inventor attempted to telephone the Examiner on 1-20-05, but Examiner's voice mail stated that Examiner is gone until February which is later than the due-date of this Amendment. Inventor called the USPTO help phone line where the due date of 1-24-05 was confirmed.

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Examiner did not state that the previously sent Amendment was not entered, but stated that it did not address all issues that the Examiner had brought up. In this Amendment, inventor will address all these issues. Inventor is not certain whether Examiner did or did not enter the claim changes that were in the last Amendment, and could not reach Examiner by phone to ask and further could not reach SPE Grimley to ask, so Inventor believes that the correct thing to do is to re-enter the claims with the additional corrections requested by Examiner as if they had not been entered before with easier to read margins. Inventor believes the drawing replacement sheets were properly received and that they will be later accepted by Examiner if Inventor proves that these Figures were not prior art in the parent application and for this reason is not sending the drawing sheets a second time, particularly in light of the fact that Inventor has noticed that these entered drawings are accessible from PAIR and can be retrieved with PAIR, thus confirming that these drawings were received.

Remarks Regarding the Drawings

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Figures 3C, 3D, 3E, 34, 35, 36 and 37 have been replaced with the three Replacement Sheets provided. The replacement sheets are the same as the originals except that the words "Prior Art" have been removed because these Figures are not prior art in this Application. To prove

5 this, they have been shown originally in the parent Application, serial number 08/370,968, now patent number 6,552,780. However, Inventor Michlin wishes to withdraw the change of Figures 36 and 37 without prejudice. Inventor believes that the claims of this instant Application are not affected one way or the other whether or not these are labeled as "prior art" or not, and it would require a lot of work to make this change. It is a battle not worth fighting, and with nothing to gain in this instant application and thus the request to amend Figures 36 and 37 is withdrawn without prejudice.

10 Figure 3C of this Application is identical to Figure 14 of patent 6,552,780 (see col. 13, lines 39 - 50 of patent 6,552,780). Figure 3D of this Application is identical to Figure 13 of patent 6,552,780 (see col. 12, line 55 through col. 13, line 39 of patent 6,552,780). Figure 3E of this Application is identical to Figure 11 of patent 6,552,780 (see col. 11, lines 33 - 64 of patent 6,552,780). Figure 34 of this Application is identical to Figure 10c of patent 6,552,780 (see col. 11, lines 9 - 32 of patent 6,552,780). Figure 35 of this Application is identical to
15 Figure 10b of patent 6,552,780 (see col. 11, lines 9 - 32 of patent 6,552,780). These Figures are supported in the '780 patent as previously shown. Inventor believes that no new matter has been added. Inventor could have included the '780 Figures with this Amendment, but did not do so as these Figures are publicly available. In the event that Examiner does not accept the above drawing Amendments, Inventor will allow Examiner to make an Examiner's
20 Amendment and withdraw the request to Amend those Figures without prejudice, in the interest of not causing needless delay in this Application.

25 Please accept the Proposed New Figures 38E through 38S provided in the previous Amendment that Examiner required from the previous Office Action used to support the method claims. No new matter has been added.

CFR 1.84(p)(5) Rejections

30 Examiner objects to drawings as failing to comply with CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 138 and 144a. However, Inventor believes that Examiner is mistaken as Figure 38A shows reference numeral 138. Proposed new Figures 38o, 38R and 38S show the adhesive 144A.

CFR 1.83(a) Rejections

Examiner has objected under 37 CFR 1.83(a) that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, specifically;

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A) a method of forming a seal assembly (claims 31,33, 35 and 37) with the steps of:

1) adhering a release layer: this has been corrected by amending the claim. Adhesive, tape and transfer tape usually comes with a release liner already attached - thus, this step is not necessary as it is purchased before the manufacture process.

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2) forming at least one kiss-cut in the release layer to generate a masking portion and a non-masking portion: this is shown in new proposed Figures 38E through 38S. Although the process was not depicted in the original drawings, original Figure and 38C shows a seal-insert with a kiss-cut fully through the release liner layer.

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3) removing the non-masking portion of the release layer: this is shown in new Figure 38o and the seal-insert with the non-masking portion fully removed is shown in new Figures 38R and 38S.

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B) a method of forming a seal assembly (claim 32, 34, 36 and 38) with the steps of:

1) providing a main body portion including a first layer defining a first opening, an adherent layer including a second opening in register with the first opening of the first layer: this is shown in new proposed Figures 38E through 38o. It is also shown mostly or all in original Figures 38A through 38D. It is also shown in original Figures 61 - 63, 65 and 65A.

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2) forming at least one kiss-cut fully through the release liner layer: this is shown in new proposed Figures 38E through 38S. Although the process was not depicted in the original drawings, original Figure and 38C shows a seal-insert with a kiss-cut fully through the release

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liner layer.

3) removing the non-masking portion of the release liner layer: this sequence is shown in proposed new Figures 38N - 38o to 38R and 38S.

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4) adhering a layer of tear-able material: this sequence is shown in proposed new Figures 38R and 38S.

10 Inventor has included the aforementioned Proposed new Figures and amendment of the Specification for the purpose of addressing the issues mentioned by Examiner.

Specification

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Abstract

A new Abstract has been proposed which is shorter and is believed to comply with Examiner's requests.

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Other Rejections

The words "Prior Art" were removed from Figures 3C, 3D, 3E, 34 and 35 as these Figures are from the original parent Patent.

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Examiner states that on page 46, line 19, "155?" is incorrect. The question mark is there because the sentence is a question, so no correction is required here.

Substitute Specification Under 37 CFR 1.125(a) Arguments

On page 4 of Examiner's Office Action, Examiner states, " A substitute specification not including the claims is required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.125(a) because several pages of the specification have sentences in italics. This should be removed." Inventor has respectfully found only one paragraph with italics on page 49 and the word "this" is italicized in two instances within this single paragraph. Since there are only two words italicized in the same paragraph, 37 CFR 1.125(a) does not require a substitute specification, and for this reason, Inventor has made a normal amendment to the Specification. Examiner has not objected to this position in Examiner's Office Action dated 12-22-04, so Inventor believes that this position is acceptable.

Amendment of Specification

In the Summary of the Invention, information was added that was germane to the claims of the invention.

In the Brief Description of the Drawings section, descriptions of newly proposed Figures 38E through 38S were added. Also, added was descriptions of Figures 64A and 64B, which inadvertently were left out in the Application.

On page 36, line 27, the word "die" was changed to "dye" and the same was done on page 38, line 24.

On page 49, a brief description of a die cutting and seal assembly manufacturing processes were inserted which use the newly proposed Figures 38E through 38S. It is believed that no new matter was added. Die-cutting and kiss-cutting were discussed throughout the patent application. This process has been described throughout the patent application, particularly on pages 44, line 25 through page 52, line 22. Just to cite some examples in this section, please note page 45, lines 22 through 27, where it states;

When die-cutting the seal-insert 148, the die-cutting process can make a kiss-cut that

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cuts only through the liner and adhesive 144A and possibly slightly deeper of the shape as shown in region 147 whereby the adhesive can either be removed in these regions 147 and 150 as shown in Figure 38B or the adhesive 144A of the seal-insert 149 can be masked as shown in Figure 38C at regions 151 and 152.

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On page 48, lines 21 - 26, it states;

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With a die-cut controlling the dimensions of the mask 151 and 152 of the invention, every masked area is identical and optionally, the adhesive liner may be used as the mask, reducing the labor required, because this way, the laborer leaves the little piece of adhesive liner 151 and 152, 153 and 154 on the seal-insert 149 and 155 without guessing where to place the tiny piece of adhesive masking material.

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On page 50, lines 1 - 5, it states;

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Although this invention has been described, one embodiment is to make the seal assembly of that other patent but instead use the removal of adhesive at the tear opening 147 and 153 to control the initial seal tear, and also can use the kiss cut of the adhesive liner 151 or otherwise mask an entry portion of the adhesive in order to control the seal's initial tear.

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On page 52, lines 15 to 17, it states;

To further improve the device and process, inventor also recently developed the die-cutting where the adhesive will be either masked or removed as shown in Figures 38B through 38 D, already described...

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Finally, in the original Abstract filed, it states on lines 9 - 19;

The adhesive masking may be further improved upon by using the very release liner, an ingredient of some adhesive tapes, that is already on the tape to mask the adhesive

at the initial tearing and/or final tearing area, or any other location where the magnitude of the pulling force is to be reduced. This adhesive masking using the release liner can be even further improved by forming precise adhesive masking during the same die-cutting process when a component of the seal is formed, and thus does not require an extra step, but rather uses a die that does both functions of cutting a component and kiss-cut-forming an adhesive mask, all in one die-cut step. Thus, labor is saved. These seal assembly improvements may be implemented in the overall manufacture of a toner hopper, toner cartridge and/or an image forming apparatus.

Thus, Inventor believes that the drawings and descriptions added are supported in the previously disclosures of this patent application. Die-cutting is discussed, rotary die-cutting was discussed, kiss-cutting was discussed, the manufacturing process was discussed whereby the kiss-cut of the masking portion of the release liner was discussed as being done in the same operation as cutting the seal-insert.

Italics noted by Examiner: The italics of the paragraph on page 49, second paragraph have been corrected by removing italics from two instances of the word "this".

Inventor has complied with Examiner in making this Application in good condition.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims, as amended, are clearly distinguishable over the prior art and are allowable. Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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